

The Senate transportation bill also includes a desperately needed one-year extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. This program provides an essential lifeline for more than 700 rural federally forested communities and 9 million schoolchildren across the nation. For Oregon, these payments may mean the difference between keeping criminals in our jails and sheriffs on the road or financial insolvency and the dissolution of county governments.

Congress can debate the XL pipeline any day of the week. And we should. Let's have a debate about the route, expedited approval, and environmental reviews. Let's have a debate on energy policies to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, bring down the price of gas for American consumers, and lead to a more secure energy future. But it's telling that Republican leadership has refused to bring a clean XL pipeline bill to the floor of this House. Instead, they insist on attaching it to must-pass legislation to score political points and to try to embarrass the President—these are not serious efforts to legislate.

With the national unemployment rate still hovering around 8 percent and the real unemployment rate closer to 15 percent it is absolutely unacceptable that Congress would take any risk of jeopardizing what should be a bipartisan effort to maintain or create millions of private-sector American jobs.

I urge my colleagues to reject this motion and to quickly pass a conferenced transportation bill that makes desperately needed investments in our transportation system, creates jobs, and helps ensure rural counties across the nation are able to offer basic government services.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, at this moment, there are more than 400,000 young Americans in the foster care system. They face both enormous chances of hope and opportunity, but also hardship. Like all children, they need guidance and they need an advocate.

During National Foster Care Month, we work to improve the reality of our Nation's foster youth and especially honor the dedicated foster families who care for these youth. All children deserve loving, safe, and stable homes. Each year there are thousands of foster youth who age out of the system without a permanent family. Studies show that these youth are more likely to end up homeless, commit to a life of crime, or suffer from undiagnosed or untreated mental health challenges. Within the foster care system, there are bright stars of help and hope.

Today I'd like to share a story of one such extraordinary foster parent: Mrs. Eula Gardner Dowdy. Over the years, Eula Gardner Dowdy of Clarksville and her late husband have brought more than 100 children into their home as foster children. The Dowdy house became a home to children regardless of age, race, creed, or ability. Backgrounds changing, the one constant for these children was their need for love and caring, and Eula's willing-

ness to welcome them into her family. The 2006 Tennessee Foster Parent of the Year, Eula has received many deserving accolades for her contributions to the Clarksville community.

There are countless Eula Gardner Dowdy's in our great country whose love enriches the children that enter their homes. I rise today to thank all those who bring foster children into their hearts and make a lasting and powerful difference in lives of those children. During National Foster Care Month, I ask my colleagues to rise with me in thanksgiving for the many foster parents who are wonderful examples of devotion to the youth of today so that they may have hope for a better tomorrow.

MALLISYN BRUCE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mallisyn Bruce for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Mallisyn Bruce is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mallisyn Bruce is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mallisyn Bruce for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

SECOND INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ma Ying-jeou will be inaugurated as President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on May 20, 2012. On January 14, 2012, he won reelection and I sincerely congratulate him for his achievement.

I would like to applaud the effort that President Ma and his people have put forth to develop a strong democracy that promotes freedom, liberty, and the rule of law. To people around the world, Taiwan is a beacon of democracy and it is an honor to recognize their continued commitment to this distinguished ideal.

The United States and Taiwan have a long history of economic cooperation and friendship over the years. As a friend of Taiwan in the United States Congress, I would like to add that many of my colleagues and I strongly support our commitments to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act. This partnership between the United States and Taiwan is inval-

able and we look forward to continuing to work together in the future. We also support Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Again, on the occasion of Mr. Ma's inauguration, we wish Mr. Ma and his people continued success in all their endeavors.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to bring to your attention a non-partisan, good governance issue—accountability and transparency. Specifically, accountability and transparency for the War Budget, which for accounting purposes is treated separately from the Department of Defense (DoD) Base Budget.

The Government Accountability Office, GAO, the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, and the Congressional Research Service, CRS, have all testified before Congress about the limited transparency in DoD war cost estimating and reporting) Despite this challenge, members from both political parties have worked in a bipartisan manner to support our 43rd and 44th Commanders in Chief to ensure that our troops have the war-related resources they need to win the Global War on Terror. As we move forward, it is my hope that we will preserve this spirit of bipartisanship while also working to overcome the challenge of providing good faith estimates about what our war effort actually costs.

Last year's Budget and Control Act, BCA (P.L. 112-25) appropriately recognized the distinction made by previous Congresses between the Base Budget and the War Budget. It places specific limits, or caps, on the Base Budget; the War Budget, however, has no limit. This creates a potential loophole for the President and/or Congress to evade the BCA limits by moving money for regular activities from the Base Budget to the War Budget's unlimited resources.

This is the first full cycle of Budget requests, authorizations, and appropriations under the BCA. Despite the varied views on the law, the President and the Congress have a duty to abide by its letter and spirit unless an alternative law is agreed upon. This bill is not about finding an alternative replacement for the BCA; it's about making sure the men and women in harm's way have the appropriate legal authority and resources to effectively fight on our behalf. It should also be about providing for our troops in an accountable and transparent manner.

The FY2013 Budget Request calls for shifting \$6.1 billion in basic compensation for military personnel from the Base Budget to the War Budget. The troops associated with these